




NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20546

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

April 24, 1967

MEMORANDUM to: Heads of Headquarters Program  
and Staff Offices

The attached statement, plus a wire from the  
astronauts, are NASA's only comment on the  
Komarov accident.

  
Julian Scheer  
Assistant Administrator  
for Public Affairs

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All of us who have faced the difficulties of understanding and putting to use the forces of nature at the outer edge of man's knowledge of what is possible in this decade deeply regret the loss of life represented by the death of Cosmonaut Komarov and extend our sincere sympathy to his family and associates. We feel certain that man will achieve great things in space. Some of these will determine what man will be able to do on earth. We also feel that at this dawn of the space age man has the duty to seek cooperation between nations such as the USSR and the United States on a realistic basis. We at NASA want to make every realistic effort.

Could the lives already lost have been saved if we had known each other's hopes, aspirations and plans? Or if full cooperation had been the order of the day?

Both the USSR and the United States are developing very large space capabilities. We both will have to decide between many courses of action which each will have the power to carry out.

I very much hope that the dramatic events which have already occurred in 1967 will be looked at against the

background of the many statements made by the leaders of both nations to the effect that cooperation is something both nations should seek.

I know President Johnson is ready to match his actions with his strongly expressed desire for more effective cooperation.